



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
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George Washington Birthplace - News Release

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George Washington Birthplace Hosts *George Washington and the Underground Railroad*

On Saturday, February 12, 2011, noted Underground Railroad scholar Sheri Jackson will talk about *George Washington and the Underground Railroad*. Ms. Jackson's talk will be held in the visitor center auditorium of George Washington Birthplace National Monument at 2 p.m. Her talk is sponsored by the National Park Service in celebration of Black History Month.

In 1793 President George Washington signed the Fugitive Slave Act, providing a legal mechanism for returning escaped slaves from free states to their masters in the south. Although Washington's crowning accomplishment, the United States Constitution, said that a slave in one state was still a slave in even a free state, the Act that Washington signed provided the blueprint for depriving those born in bondage from their hard earned freedom. The act gave rise to the profession of slave hunter. It made the developing Underground Railroad a more purposeful and efficient ticket to freedom. It was one of the earliest historical events that solidified a rift between slave and free states that would tear the nation apart in less than a century.



A 16 year veteran of the National Park Service, Sheri Jackson is currently the Northeast Regional Manager of the National Underground Network to

Sheri Jackson, National Underground Railroad
Network to Freedom,
Northeast Regional Manager

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Freedom. The Network is a national committee of National Park Service managers that provides technical assistance related to developing sites, programs and facilities that are related to the Underground Railroad. It also educates the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad and identifies and works to preserve associated sites and resources.

“The Underground Railroad, the resistance to enslavement through escape and flight, was seen as a ‘revolution’ for many blacks. The ideals of the American Revolution that planted seeds of unity and resistance in the colonists, were also being planted in enslaved people,” explains Jackson referring to the ideals of Washington demonstrated by passengers on the Underground Railroad for over 60 years after the death of the leader of the first American Revolution.

George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located on Route 204, 2 miles off of Route 3, 38 miles east of Fredericksburg, VA and 11 miles west of Montross, VA. Additional information about George Washington Birthplace National Monument is available by phone at (804) 224-1732 or on the web at www.nps.gov/gewa. Admission to the talk is free and open to the public.